



37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.



Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7-8 and 13-23 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuing or divisional applications.

 Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1: 

B¹
1. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a differentially expressed prostate cancer antigen 3 (PCA3) mRNA containing an additional sequence between exon 3 and exon 4a, thereby giving rise to a PCA3 mRNA, having a sequence which is longer than that set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

 Please substitute the following claim 3 for the pending claim 3: 

B²
3. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence as set forth from nucleotides 27 to 254 of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide sequence in (a);

and

B²₁₁

- (c) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under high stringency condition to any of the nucleotide sequences in (a) or (b).

Please substitute the following claim 5 for the pending claim 5:

5. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the molecule encodes the truncated PCA3 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Please substitute the following claim 6 for the pending claim 6:

B³

6. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of 10 to 50 nucleotides which specifically hybridizes to a differentially expressed PCA3 mRNA comprising an additional PCA3 sequence between exon 3 and exon 4a, thereby giving rise to a PCA3 mRNA having a sequence which is longer than that set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is or is complementary to a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 10 consecutive nucleotides from said additional PCA3 sequence, as set forth from nucleotides 27 to 254 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Please add the following claims:

24. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said longer PCA3 mRNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth from nucleotides 27 to 254 of SEQ ID NO:1.

B⁴

25. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said additional sequence interrupts the open reading frame of a PCA3 protein, thereby yielding a truncated

PCA3 protein.

26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein said molecule sequence is as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

27. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- 1342
- (a) the nucleic acid sequence as set forth from nucleotides 27 to 254 of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to the nucleotide sequence in (a);
and
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under high stringency condition to any of the nucleotide sequences in (a) or (b).
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